Fund News: Jewish Family Service Grant

With the current economic crisis mounting, individuals and families face diverse challenges from job loss and financial insecurity.

The Fund recently awarded a grant of $417,673 to Jewish Family Service (JFS) to launch a Jewish-centered case management service, including funds for direct relief, to provide critically needed services to at least 200 individuals and families who are struggling as a result of COVID-19. This grant is to be spread out throughout the next year. Expanding JFS’ capacity will enable it to serve Jews in need in our community throughout COVID-19 and beyond. Services provided will include:

- Access to food
- Financial assistance
- Transportation
- No-interest loans
- Rental abatement
- Retraining, interview, and job search help
- Mental health services, therapy, and support groups
- Domestic abuse services
- Connections with Jewish community leaders for additional counsel

Sarah’s story:

Soon after the pandemic began, Sarah, a single mother of two, found her full-time job reduced to 20 hours per week. She could not cover her rent in May and sought support from the community. Through JFS, Sarah received financial assistance for rent. She also received food from JFS’s Drive-Thru Food Distribution to defray the cost of groceries.

— Jewish Family Service
Responding to immediate needs, understanding emerging challenges, and planning for the future.

Phase I: Emergency Needs & Payroll Support
Community members face unprecedented choices between food, housing, medicine, and other essentials.

Organizations and synagogues received funding as they help hundreds of vulnerable individuals and families access necessities, many seeking community help and support for the first time.

“Our community has been able to help 18 families access food during this exceptional time. Thank you for enabling us to connect with those who need us to reach out the most right now. These individuals are forever appreciative.”
— Chabad Chula Vista

Interest-free bridge loans awarded in March helped to keep staff employed and avoid crisis decisions.

Loans were distributed to:

- Camp Mountain Chai
- Congregation Adat Yeshurun
- Hillié of San Diego
- Hope Village (Chesed House)
- Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
- Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School
- Temple Adat Shalom
- Torah High School

Phase II: Safe Reopening
With preschool for children of essential workers, access to camps around the county, reenvisioned day school structure, and diverse programs for all ages, our community can continue to benefit from vibrant Jewish experiences and connections in safe environments that pivot as health policy evolves. The next deadline to apply for Safe Reopening funds is August 14th.

Grant Recipients

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<th>Chabad La Costa</th>
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<td>Chabad Oceanside</td>
<td>Seacrest Village Retirement Communities</td>
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<td>Coastal Roots Farm</td>
<td>Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School</td>
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<td>Congregation Beth Am</td>
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<td>Friends of the IDF</td>
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<td>Jewish Collaborative of SD</td>
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<td>Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center</td>
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<td>San Diego Jewish Academy</td>
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Key Lessons
The Fund learns from our community’s experts serving on the frontlines to identify ways to support increasing needs:

- Continued food and housing insecurity
- Isolation and its psychological effects
- Employment assistance
- Organizations’ capacity to pivot to new service delivery models, and more

“As parents begin to go back to work and our community seeks new kinds of in-person programming, it’s critical that the JCC’s phased reopening balance the highest standards of safety and quality. Protective equipment and new health and safety equipment allow us to adhere to best practice in keeping our community safe. Additionally, with the hard-hitting pandemic taking a huge economic toll on many families, we’re proud to offer financial aid for preschool and camp to families who may need the help for the first time and grateful to Fund donors for making it possible.”
— Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center